

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:
- storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device;
- receiving a second hardware configuration over a network,
- 10 wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device; and
- programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration.
- 15 2. The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said networked communications device is a router.
- 20 3. The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

4. The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said first hardware description, wherein said processor creates said first hardware description using said configuration description; and

storing said first hardware description in non-volatile memory.

5. The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises verifying security information.

6. The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving.

7. The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 6, wherein said method further comprises comparing said first hardware configuration with said second hardware configuration.

8. A networked communications device comprising:

a bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus;

5 a processor coupled to said bus, said processor executing a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:

storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device;

10 receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device; and

programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration.

15 9. The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said networked communications device is a router.

20 10. The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

11. The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said first hardware description, wherein said processor
5 creates said first hardware description using said configuration description; and
storing said first hardware description in non-volatile memory.

12. The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8,
wherein said method further comprises verifying security information.

13. The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8,
wherein said method further comprises configuring said networked
communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving.

14. The networked communications device as recited in Claim 13,
wherein said method further comprises comparing said first hardware
configuration with said second hardware configuration.

15. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program
20 code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform the steps of:
storing a first hardware configuration of said networked
communications device;

receiving a second hardware configuration over a network,
wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a centralized
memory area of said networked communications device; and

programming a programmable logic unit on said networked
5 communications device according to said second hardware configuration.

16. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said
networked communications device is a router.

10 17. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said
networked communications device is a switch.

18. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said
steps further comprise:

15 collecting information, wherein a component of said networked
communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said
networked communications device;

creating said first hardware description, wherein said processor
creates said first hardware description using said configuration description; and

20 storing said first hardware description in non-volatile memory.

19. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said
steps further comprise verifying security information.

20. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving.

5

21. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein said steps further comprise comparing said first hardware configuration with said second hardware configuration.

10 22. A system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:

a means for storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device;

15 a means for receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device; and

a means for programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration.

20

23. The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said networked communications device is a router.

24. The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

5

25. The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a means for collecting a configuration description of a component of said networked communications device and a means for using said configuration description in creating said first hardware description.

26. The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a means for verifying security information.